The Story of the Shroud Thief

Islamic Stories - Volume 39

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Chapter 1: The Sincere Repentance of a Shroud Thief

The Plot of Deception: A Thief’s Scheme

Qushayri (may Allah have mercy upon him) relates that there was once a man who was known for stealing burial shrouds. When a woman passed away, and her body was prepared for burial, this man joined the funeral procession. His intention in doing so was to identify the grave's location so that, under the cover of night, he could unearth the grave and steal the shroud.

The Act of Trespass: A Nighttime Attempt

When night fell, and the mourners had all departed, the thief returned to the grave. He began to dig until he reached the body of the deceased woman.

The Voice from the Grave:

Woman:

"Subhan Allah! A forgiven man is stealing the shroud of a forgiven woman!"

The Moment of Awakening: A Thief's Shock

Startled by the voice, the shroud thief recoiled in surprise and spoke.

The Thief’s Astonishment:

Shroud Thief:

"O woman! It is true that you have been forgiven, but how have I been forgiven?"

The Revelation: Mercy Unveiled

In response to his question, the woman explained the divine mercy that had enveloped not only her but also those who had partaken in her funeral prayer.

The Deceased Woman’s Response:

Woman:

"Allah Almighty has granted me forgiveness, and He has also granted forgiveness to those who performed my funeral prayer. You, too, were among those who took part in the funeral prayer."

The Turn of the Heart: A Life Transformed

Upon hearing this, the shroud thief abandoned his intention, restored the grave to its original state, and covered it with soil. Thereafter, he repented with such sincerity that he came to be counted among the company of the righteous.

The Legacy: A Lesson for Posterity

This remarkable occurrence, intended as a source of admonition for others, was narrated by the man himself, who recounted his experience in his own words.